



**MARYSVILLE JOINT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT**

1919 B Street
Marysville, CA 95901
(530)749-6198

TRANSPORTATION SAFETY PLAN



School bus transportation provided by Marysville Joint Unified School District is not mandated by California law. School bus transportation provided by MJUSD is a privilege. The following rules and information contained in the safety plan were developed to insure all students receive safe and dependable transportation.

AUTHORITY OF THE DRIVER

CCR Title 5 Section 14103 states: Pupils transported in a school bus or in a school pupil activity bus shall be under the authority of, and responsible directly to the driver of the bus, and the driver shall be held responsible for the orderly conduct of the pupils while they are on the bus or being escorted across a street, highway, or road. Continued disorderly conduct or persistent refusal to submit to the authority of the driver shall be sufficient reason for a pupil to be denied transportation. A bus driver shall not require any pupil to leave the bus in route between home and school or other destinations.

CCR Title 13 Section 1217 states: The driver of the school bus shall not eject any school pupil unless the pupil is given to the custody of a parent or any person designated by the parent or school.

WALKING DISTANCE

The walking distance for K through 5th grades are 1 mile. The walking distance for 6th through 8th grades are 1 ¼ miles. The walking distance for 9th through 12th grades are 2 ¼ miles. If a student lives further than these distances from the school which they attend, they may be eligible for bus transportation. For more information about bus stops in your area, call the Transportation Department office at 530-749-6189.

BUS ROUTES

Regular home to school bus route schedules are developed prior to the start of the school year. These routes will be posted at each school site as well as on the mjusd.com/transportation website. Each bus route schedule includes the name of the route, bus stops, time of arrival and bus number. Students shall have **one** designated school bus stop. Students who ride school buses should be at their stop **5** minutes before the arrival time. Bus stop times may change depending on ridership changes or traffic patterns. The Bus Driver will notify students and parents of any changes to the schedule. Any student who wishes to ride another bus or travel to a different stop, must have a signed permission note from a parent or guardian and their school. The District does not provide transportation for inter-district transfers. Any questions regarding bus stops or changes in the schedule should be directed to the Transportation Department at 530-749-6189.

Bus Rider Forms are required for every student who rides the bus. This form is used to establish where each student's bus stop is and to maintain a riders list for each bus. This list is kept on each bus and in the Transportation Department. Emergency contact information for each student is also on the Bus Rider Form.

WALKING TO AND FROM SCHOOL BUS STOPS

Students walking to school or bus stops should walk out of the roadway, facing traffic. Students are assigned one permanent bus stop, which would be the nearest geographic stop to the student's residence. Students who ride school buses should be at their stop 5 minutes before the arrival time. Walk directly to and from the bus stop, using the safest route possible. Parents or guardians should accompany young children to the bus stop and assist in keeping order while waiting for the bus. Students should never accept a ride from a stranger. Crosswalks should always be used to cross a road when available.

CONDUCT AT LOADING ZONES

Students should stand in line facing traffic so the bus can be seen approaching. Students should be at least 12 feet back from where the bus will stop. Destroying property, playing in the street or any kind of horseplay at a bus stop is dangerous and prohibited. Students should not approach the bus until the bus comes to a complete stop and the driver opens the door. Students should never go under the bus to retrieve papers or objects they have dropped. They should always ask the driver for assistance. When waiting to load or unload the bus, students are the direct responsibility of the driver and must follow the driver's directions.

Students should **NEVER** run after the bus if they have missed the bus. The bus will not stop at an unapproved stop to pick up late students. If a student has missed the bus, the student will need to inform the parent or guardian they missed the bus and obtain other means of transportation.

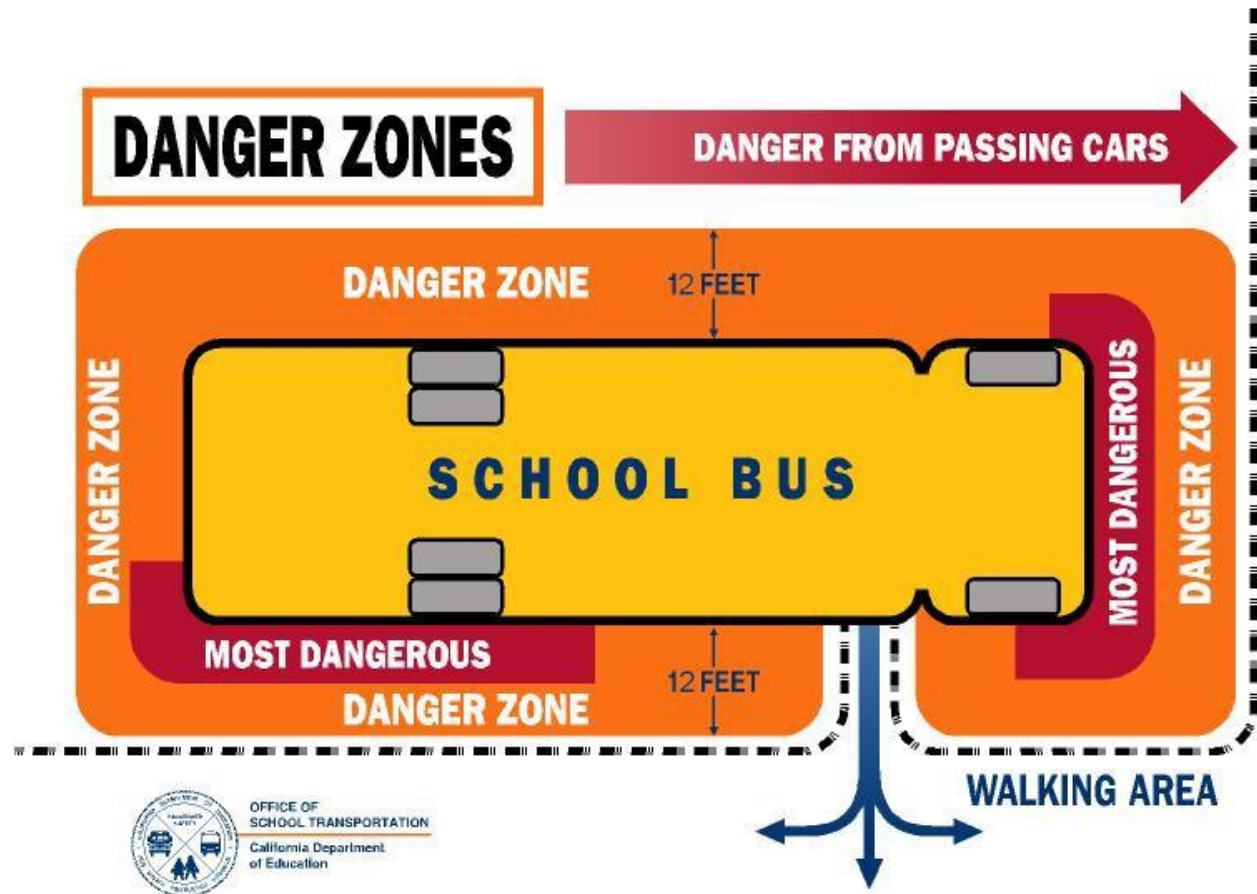
BOARDING AND EXITING

The Bus Driver will monitor students boarding and exiting the bus to ensure the student is boarding the appropriate bus and exiting at the appropriate bus stop. Students should board the bus one at a time and move quickly to an open seat. Pushing, shoving or horseplay is not allowed while boarding or exiting the bus. When exiting the bus, students must remain seated until the bus comes to a complete stop and the door opens. Students must walk away from the bus, heading directly home or to after school care. **Kindergarten students will only be released to the parent, guardian or designee 18 years or older. The parent, guardian or designee must come up to the bus door to receive their student. If there is no parent or guardian at the**

stop, the Transportation Department will attempt to contact the parent or guardian. If the Transportation Department can not make contact with the parent or guardian, the Kindergarten student will be taken back to school. For the protection of our students, only students and authorized staff will be allowed on the bus. No parent is allowed on the bus at any time. If a parent needs to speak with the Bus Driver, the parent may approach the driver's window and communicate from the outside of the bus. Parents may also contact the Transportation Department.

After the last student has exited the bus and while the bus is still at the school or at the last stop, the Bus Driver will conduct a check of the bus for any remaining students or belongings.

All areas within 12 feet of the exterior of the bus are called the danger zones. Students are directed to be no closer than 12 feet to the bus except when boarding and exiting. The vast majority of school bus accidents and injury to students occur outside the bus in the danger zone.



RED LIGHT CROSSINGS

If students have to cross the road on which the bus is stopped, the Bus Driver is required to escort pre-kindergarten through eighth grade students across the road with the red lights flashing and the driver holding up a hand held stop sign. All traffic must stop. For ninth through twelfth grades students crossing the road on which the bus is stopped, the red lights will be activated to stop traffic. At certain stops, High School students may also be escorted across the road by the Driver. On buses where High School students ride with other grades, all of the students shall be escorted across the road by the Driver.

All students crossing the road on which the bus is stopped will always cross in front of the bus between the driver and the front of the bus approximately twelve (12) feet.

CONDUCT ON SCHOOL BUS

The Rules and Regulations for school bus transportation have been established by the District and based on California law. This information is available on the mjusd.com/transportation website and will be distributed to each student at the beginning of every school year.

CONCLUSION OF THE ROUTE

At the conclusion of the route and once the school bus has returned to the yard, the Bus Driver will conduct a post trip inspection. The Bus Driver shall walk to the rear of the bus checking each seat, above and below, for students and belongings. The Bus Driver will then deactivate the child safety alert system and then check all seats again as they walk back to the front of the bus.

EVACUATIONS

There will be a minimum of one bus emergency evacuation drill conducted during the school year for students who ride the bus. In addition, when a bus is used for an activity trip, the students and teachers will be given instructions on emergency evacuations, the location of the first aid kit, the fire extinguisher and the rules that are expected to be followed by each passenger.

LOADING/UNLOADING ZONES, SCHOOLS BUS VS PARENT

At most MJUSD schools, the bus loading and unloading zones are separate from the parent drop off and pick up zones. These bus loading and unloading zones are only for school bus transportation and are clearly marked with a **BUS ONLY** sign. Parents must use the correct parent drop off and pick up zones. For information on which zone is for parent drop off and pick up, the parent should contact the school to which the student attends.

SPECIAL NEEDS TRANSPORTATION

All special needs students and their parents will be given verbal and written instructions pertaining to the location of the student's bus stop, bus rules, time of pick up, time of return, loading and unloading procedures. The bus will only wait three minutes after student's stop time in order to keep route on time. The student should be ready 5 minutes prior to their pick up time. Pick up and drop off times may change depending on student attendance as well as students being added and dropped from transportation. If the student no shows for three days, transportation will be suspended until the student's parents contact the Transportation Department to resume transportation.

Special needs buses will be routed to pick up and drop off at the closest safest stop to the student's residence. Every attempt will be made so that no students will be escorted across the street. In the event of an unforeseen circumstance should require a student to be escorted across the street the Bus Driver shall comply with the provisions of the California Vehicle Code regarding red light crossovers.

During loading and unloading the red crossover lights shall be activated at all times except where a pupil requires physical assistance from the Bus Driver or authorized attendant to board or leave the school bus.

Parents will be required to provide pertinent information to the transportation department concerning the student's medical and physical condition. This information will be handled as confidential under Federal Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974.

WHEELCHAIRS

When a student is transported in a wheelchair, a four point tie down is required on the school bus. All wheelchairs are required to have auto type buckle lap belts and must be permanently attached to the wheelchair. Velcro-type fasteners will not be accepted for transportation. Wheelchair must also have working brakes.

FIELD TRIPS

Field trip guidelines have been developed to ensure home to school transportation will not be disrupted. These guidelines and forms can be found on the mjustd.com/transportation website. Transportation for field trips may be by school bus, charter bus, school or private vehicle. An adult chaperone, other than the Bus Driver, must accompany students on a field trip.

SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS

School Bus Drivers are the most highly trained commercial drivers in California. In their initial training, they receive at least 20 hours of classroom time, 20 hours of on the road training, first aid training, multiple DMV tests, CHP written and driving tests and two separate fingerprint background checks. After their first year, Bus Drivers are required to receive at least 10 hours of training yearly.

SCHOOL BUSES

School buses are the safest vehicles on the road, and one of the safest modes of transportation overall. In fact, children are much safer traveling in school buses than in any other vehicle, whether they're going to and from school, a field trip, or a sporting event.

School buses are the most highly regulated vehicles used for student transportation. Every bus must go through an inspection by the Bus Driver prior to transporting students. School buses must also be inspected and serviced by the district every 45 days or 3,000 miles, whichever comes first. This inspection covers all mechanical, electrical and drive train equipment. The California Highway Patrol also inspects and certifies each bus every 13 months.

School buses purchased after July 1st, 2005 must be equipped with a passenger restraint system (seat belt). When such systems are available on buses, passengers are required to use the passenger restraint system.

CHARTER BUSES

School Pupil Activity Buses (SPAB) are buses that are operated by charter companies. All charter companies are preapproved prior to the beginning of the school year. The SPAB buses fall under all of the same rules and laws as school buses. They must be inspected every 45 days or 3,000 miles and certified by the CHP every 13 months. The driver of the SPAB buses must also have a special driving certificate and a class B license.

SCHOOL VEHICLES

All drivers of school district vehicles must complete the Employee Driver Application, have a California Driver's License and be enrolled in the DMV Non-Commercial Pull Notice Program. School district vehicles are inspected on a regular basis to ensure operational safety.

ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS

Bus Drivers have the authority to discontinue the bus operation whenever they determine that it is unsafe to continue operation due to reduced visibility or adverse weather conditions.

Adverse weather conditions may include dense fog, snow, heavy rains, hail and strong winds. Reduced visibility is 200 feet or less. Every effort will be made to contact all parents for students on any bus that transportation has been discontinued.